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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re application of:

Group Art Unit: 3623

DAVID COOPER et al.

Examiner: Linda Mary Krisciunas

Serial No.: 09/682,522

Filed: September 14, 2001

For: **WEBSITE AND SYSTEM FOR DELIVERING
HUMAN RESOURCES INFORMATION AND SERVICES**

Attorney Docket No.: FMC 1336 PUS (81044439)

REPLY BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.41

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents

Commissioner for Patents

U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply Brief is in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed on August 17, 2006 for the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner maintains the rejection of independent claims 1 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) in view of Cirinna. But the Examiner provides no analysis or explanation to find express limitations of these claims, and they are not taught or suggested by Cirinna.

At page 3, the Examiner cites paragraph 13 of Cirinna to find retrieval of an "employee identification credential" via "HTTP request." Paragraph 13 states:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 (FIRST CLASS MAIL)

I hereby certify that this paper, including all enclosures referred to herein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage pre-paid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents, Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

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Name of Person Signing

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[0013] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an electronic information system for providing tools to employees of an identified company to perform employment-related functions for the identified company. The system includes: an information database containing data related to the identified company; an interactive Internet website that enables only the employees of the identified company to access and interact with the electronic information system; a plurality of tools that direct the system to perform operations to assist the employees to perform employment-related functions for the identified company; an information engine that operates between the information database and the plurality of tools; and an application to identify each of the employees accessing the system, wherein the system configures the interactive Internet website based on each employees' identity.

Nowhere in paragraph 13, or anyplace else, does Cirinna describe using the claimed "HTTP request" to "identify each of the employees accessing the system" as Cirinna describes. On the contrary, Figures 8 and 10 depicting Cirinna's website both illustrate a "Register/Login" button 156. In Cirinna, unauthenticated users are provided initial access to the website, and must subsequently "Register/Login" — confirming that authentication is not done via "HTTP request" as recited in claims 1 and 20.

The Examiner cites Cirinna item 58 (shown in Figures 2 & 3) to find the "employment function attribute" of the "employee identification credential" recited in the independent claims for determining the information and services to be provided to the user. Again, the Examiner provides no analysis or explanation.

Item 58 of Cirinna is a text box bearing the words “Human Resources.”

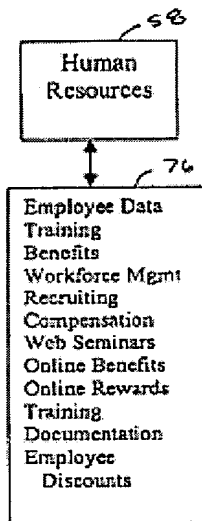


Fig. 3

The passage from the specification describing this feature states:

[0043] The Internet website may also include a variety of human resource applications 58, as provided in block 76. For example, the website may be used to develop employee data. The website may also be used to document and track employee training and assist in workforce management, such as scheduling vacations and recruiting. Additionally, the website may be used to provide a variety of information common to all employees, such as benefits.

These teachings simply do not describe an “employee identification credential [that] includes an employee name and an employment function attribute” communicated via “HTTP request” to govern the provision of information and services to the user. The Examiner provides no analysis or explanation whatsoever to find these claim limitations. They are not taught or suggested in Cirinna.

For these additional reasons, the Examiner’s rejections of independent claims 1 and 20 (and claims depending therefrom) are improper.

No additional fee is believed to be due as the result of the filing of this paper. However, any additional fees or credits should be applied to Deposit Account 06-1510 (Ford Global Technologies, LLC) as authorized by the original transmittal letter in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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